Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A contents control method for managing said contents based on key code information containing content usage information set within a range that the contents can be utilized, said method comprising the steps of:

comparing said content usage rights information with status code information showing the usage status of said contents;

determining whether the contents are used within the range set by said content usage rights information;

comparing said status code information with output setting information having a threshold value within the range of said contents usage rights information to warn by warning report data when in proximity to said contents usage rights in the case where said status code information is within the range of said contents usage rights information; ~~and~~

sending ~~outputting~~ said warning report data to a report address using an electronic mail when said status code information ~~exceeds~~ nears the threshold value of said output setting information;

disabling use of the contents when said status code information exceeds the threshold value of said output setting information; and

deleting the contents after a period of elapsed time for deletion has elapsed.

2. (Currently Amended) A contents control method according to claim 1, further comprising

outputting ~~wherein when said status code information reaches the contents usage~~

~~information, usage of said contents is prohibited and~~ invalidation report data ~~is outputted,~~

~~reporting that~~ when the use of said contents has been ~~prohibited~~ disabled.

3. (Currently Amended) A contents control method according to claim ~~1~~ 2, further

comprising

~~wherein a deletion elapse time for setting a period from prohibiting usage of said contents~~

~~to deletion of said contents is set in said output setting information, and when the period from~~

~~prohibiting usage of said contents to said deletion elapse time is reached, said contents are~~

~~deleted and~~

outputting deletion report data ~~is outputted to report~~ when said contents ~~have been~~ are

deleted.

4. (Original) A contents control method according to claim 1, wherein loading period

information set with the loading timing for loading said contents usage right information, said

status code information and said output setting information are set in said setting information,

and said status code information, said contents usage information and said setting information

are compared based on said loading interval information.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A contents control method according to claim ~~1~~ 3, further

comprising

sending wherein said warning report data, said invalidation report data and said deletion report data are respectively outputted as electronic mail to said report address using an electronic mail.

7. (Currently Amended) A contents control device for managing said contents based on key code information containing content usage information set within a range where the contents can be utilized, said device comprising:

memory storage means stored with said contents, said key code information, and status code information showing the usage status of said contents, and output setting information having a threshold value within the range of said contents usage rights information for warning by warning report data when in proximity to said threshold value of said contents usage rights;

key code monitor means to control usage limits of said contents by comparing said contents usage rights, said status code information and said output setting information to determine whether the contents are used within the range set by said content usage rights information, said key code monitor means comprising a function to output send said warning report data to a report address using an electronic mail when said status code information exceeds nears the threshold value of said output setting information; and

content output means containing a function to reproduce said contents of said memory storage means and a function to output said warning report data;

disabling means for disabling use of the contents when said status code information exceeds the threshold value of said output setting information; and

deleting means for deleting the contents after a period of elapsed time for deletion has elapsed.

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8. (Currently Amended) A program storage medium for storing the contents control program for managing said contents based on key code information containing content usage information set within a range where the contents can be utilized, said medium comprising:

memory storage means stored with said contents, said key code information, and status code information showing the usage status of said contents, and output setting information having a threshold value within the range of said contents usage rights information for warning by warning report data when in proximity to said threshold value of said contents usage rights;

key code monitor means to control usage limits of said contents by comparing said contents usage rights, said status code information and said output setting information to determine whether the contents are used within the range set by said content usage rights information, said key code monitor means comprising a function to send output said warning report data to a report address using an electronic mail when said status code information exceeds nears the threshold value of said output setting information; and

said content output means containing a function to reproduce said contents of said memory storage means and a function to output said warning report data;

disabling means for disabling use of the contents when said status code information exceeds the threshold value of said output setting information; and

deleting means for deleting the contents after a period of elapsed time for deletion has elapsed.

9. (Currently Amended) A contents control apparatus for managing said contents based on key code information containing content usage information set within a range that the contents can be utilized, said apparatus comprising:

first comparison means for comparing said content usage rights information with status code information showing the usage status of said contents;

determining means for determining whether the contents are used within the range set by said content usage rights information;

second comparison means for comparing said status code information with output setting information having a threshold value within the range of said contents usage rights information to warn by warning report data when in proximity to said contents usage rights in the case where said status code information is within the range of said contents usage rights information; and

output means for ~~outputting~~ sending said warning report data to a report address using an electronic mail when said status code information ~~exceeds~~ nears the threshold value of said output setting information;

disabling means for disabling use of the contents when said status code information exceeds the threshold value of said output setting information; and

deleting means for deleting the contents after a period of elapsed time for deletion has elapsed.